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Regulations exground filmfest Wiesbaden • nov 13–22, 2026

Categories

Submission of films in the categories main program (American Independents, Made in Germany, World Cinema, European Cinema, Short Films, Thematic focus "Cinema without limits"), special program and competitions (German Feature Film Competition, German Short Film Competition, International Short Film Competition, Wiesbaden-Special – Short Film Competition, youth days – International Youth Film Competition) in the genres fiction, documentary, animation and experimental film. Year of production: 2025/2026. The submission is free of charge. The incoming of the submission will not be confirmed.

Competitions

German Feature Film Competition

Jury director's award, endowed with EUR 3,000, German production, year of production: 2025/2026, screening format: Digital Cinema Package DCP*, version: German OV or original with German subtitles.

German Short Film Competition

Audience director's award, endowed with EUR 6,000 in total, German production, year of production: 2025/2026, screening format: Digital Cinema Package DCP*, running time: max. 20 min, version: German OV or original with German subtitles. The director or a representative (named to the festival in advance) must attend the award ceremony on November 21, 2026 in order to receive the award.

International Short Film Competition

Jury director's award, endowed with EUR 2,000, national or international production, year of production: 2025/2026, screening format: Digital Cinema Package DCP*, running time: max. 20 min, version: English OV or original with English subtitles.

Wiesbaden-Special – Short Film Competition

Audience director's award, endowed with EUR 1,500, production from Wiesbaden or by a director living in Wiesbaden, year of production: 2025/2026, screening format: Digital Cinema Package DCP*, running time: max. 20 min, version: German OV or original with German subtitles.

youth days – International Youth Film Competition

Jury and audience director's award – feature film, endowed with EUR 3,500 in total, national or international production, year of production: 2025/2026, screening format: Digital Cinema Package DCP*, version: German/English OV or original with German/English subtitles.

Jury director's award – short film, endowed with EUR 500, national or international production, year of production: 2025/2026, screening format: Digital Cinema Package DCP*, version: German/English OV or original with German/English subtitles.

[* See detailed instructions by the print department]

Further cash and non-cash prizes will be published until the beginning of the festival.

Deadline for submission: July 1, 2026

The submission of films is possible online via <https://exground.com/entryForm/>

At <https://exground.com/entryForm/> you must leave a screening link, lasting until September 15, 2026.

Selection process

A committee chooses the films in private screenings. There are no legal claims to participation in the festival. The committee explicitly reserves its right to assign the submissions to the individual program categories and to allow exceptions from the before-mentioned regulations concerning the contests.

Notification

All submitters receive a written positive or negative reply until beginning/middle of October 2026 via e-mail to the before-mentioned contact address. We kindly ask you not to inquire in written form or by phone.

Screening copy

Every submitter is obliged to provide a screening copy to the festival, should his/her film be chosen for the program or one of the contests. The screening copy has to be received by the festival no later than November 1, 2026. Detailed transport information will be provided in time. The submitter guarantees that a screening copy in the named format is available for the duration of exground filmfest. If the original version is not in English or German, the screening copy must have English or German subtitles.

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Film transport

The costs of sending viewing copies and screening copies to exground filmfest are to be paid for by the sender. This also applies to copies forwarded from other festivals, in which case the applying parties must make the appropriate arrangements with the relevant festivals. All screening copies from non-EU member states must be clearly marked with a customs declaration stating the following: "For cultural purposes only. No commercial value.". Parcels from non-EU member states must also be accompanied by an invoice stating a value of no more than USD 10 (under no circumstances should higher production costs be given). Costs arising from incorrect declarations will be charged to the account of the sender.

Return of films

Address changes can be considered until November 12, 2026.

Insurance of copies

The festival covers the cost for the film insurance according to the worth of the copy, starting with the arrival in Wiesbaden until returning it to the transport service.

Publications

The festival has the right to use excerpts and pictures from the submitted films for promotion and public-relation purposes.

Regulations

The regulations are available in German and English. In cases of doubt, the German version is authoritative.

Consent

In submitting a film to exground filmfest via <https://exground.com/entryForm/> the submitter agrees with the festival regulations.



Contact

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